

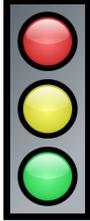
#19

# KILLER SINS

The "sometimes" form of "I Crave" – turned into "good."

**OUR FOCUS:**

- "NEUTRAL" **cravings** do NOT remain NEUTRAL.
- **CONTEXT** turns them into either GOOD or EVIL.



- ✓ ALWAYS Sinful and evil – this is a killer sin.
- ✓ Must first evaluate other factors – **THE CONTEXT** in which it occurs.
- ✓ ALWAYS Righteous and good – this is NOT a sin.



SCRIPTURE *defines* them as "good" or "evil," based on the **CONTEXT** of the craving.

↓

THE RESULT:

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**At the Day of Judgment, there will be no "NEUTRAL" category!**

God will judge us for **EVERYTHING** we do, including every secret thing, whether **GOOD** or **BAD**.

Eccles. 12:14 (NLT)



CONTEXT TURNS IT INTO **GOOD**.



CONTEXT TURNS IT INTO **EVIL**.

**TWO MORE EXAMPLES**

SHOULD WE CRAVE OR DESIRE...

# TO BE A LEADER IN THE CHURCH?

- It can be a GOOD desire!
 

Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an **overseer**, he **desires** a noble task.

1 Tim. 3:1 (NIV)
- But ONLY if you qualify!
 

Now the **overseer** must be ... [followed by a list of qualifications].

1 Tim. 3:2a (NIV)

SHOULD WE CRAVE OR DESIRE...

# FOOD?

- The crippled beggar sure had a reason to crave food!
 

[At the rich man's] gate lay a poor man named Lazarus whose body was covered with sores, who longed to eat what fell from the rich man's table.

Luke 16:20-21 (NET)
- Lazy people may crave food, but do not deserve it.
 

While we were with you, we gave you the order: "Whoever doesn't want to work shouldn't be allowed to eat."

2 Thes. 3:10 (GW)

- We should not crave the food of a stingy person!
 

Do not eat the food of one who is stingy, and do not **crave** his **delicacies**.

As he calculates the cost to himself, this is what he does:

He tells you, "Eat and drink," but he doesn't really mean it.

You will vomit the little bit you have eaten and spoil your pleasant conversation.

Proverbs 23:6-8 (GW)

WHY?

should we be concerned about such matters?

**Because we are in a WAR!**

**The flesh (sinful nature) and the Spirit are in conflict with each other.**

If the flesh can't use obviously-**SINFUL** cravings to kill us, it will use those that look "**NEUTRAL**."

For the flesh has **desires** that are opposed to the Spirit, and the Spirit has **desires** that are opposed to the flesh, for these are in opposition to each other, so that you cannot do what you want.

Galatians 5:17-18 (NET)

It is **EASY** to go after cravings that satisfy the **FLESH**.

Doing so comes **NATURAL** to us.

- The **world** encourages it; our **flesh** encourages it.
- We have developed a lifetime of **habits** that promote it.

**WITHOUT A FOCUS ON SCRIPTURE, SUCH CRAVINGS TEND TO LOOK GOOD.**

EVERYONE IS DOING IT!

I DON'T SEE ANYTHING WRONG WITH IT!

I DO IT ALL THE TIME AND NOTHING BAD SEEMS TO HAPPEN!

It is **DIFFICULT** to go after cravings that honor **GOD**.  
 Doing so takes **EFFORT**.

- Until we develop *new* habits, everything that seems to come "natural" to us fights against honoring God.

**DEVELOPING NEW HABITS IS PART OF WHAT IT MEANS TO GROW UP IN OUR SALVATION.**

... those who are **mature**, who have trained themselves to *recognize* the difference between right and wrong and then *do what is right*.

Hebrews 5:14 (NLT)

**To GROW in our ability to honor God with "NEUTRAL" things:**

- Our #1 GOAL must be to *glorify God in all we do*.
- It will require *willing effort* on our part.

So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, *do everything to the glory of God*.

1 Cor. 10:31 (GW)

**UNTIL THIS BECOMES HABITUAL FOR US, IT WILL REQUIRE A CONSTANT, DELIBERATE FOCUS.**

**A constant, deliberate focus...**

- DO I GLORIFY GOD BY THE WAY I EAT?
- DO MY LEISURE ACTIVITIES GLORIFY GOD?
- DOES MY LOVE FOR OTHERS GLORIFY GOD?
- IS MY INTERACTION WITH OTHERS GLORIFYING TO GOD?
- DO MY WORK ACTIVITIES GLORIFY GOD?
- AM I TEACHING MY CHILDREN TO GLORIFY GOD IN EVERYTHING?
- DO MY WORDS GLORIFY GOD?
- DOES THE WAY I DRIVE MY CAR GLORIFY GOD?
- DO MY SUNDAY ACTIVITIES GLORIFY GOD?

**?** CAN WE EXPECT TO BECOME **PERFECT** **?**  
 in doing what is right?

>> IS IT A REALISTIC EXPECTATION? <<

- When JESUS returns: We will **SUCCEED** in attaining perfection. (JESUS will make the final changes in us.)
- Until then: We will **STRIVE** for perfection. (GOD gives us both the *desire* and the *ability* to do so.)

**For God is working in you**, giving you the *desire* to obey him and the *power* to do what pleases him.

Philip. 2:13 (NLT)

**"PERFECTION" ⇔ Growing up!**

- The emphasis is NOT "sinlessness" (though that is our goal and desire).
- The word often refers to *maturity* – a "growing up" in our salvation. (It is sometimes translated as "mature," instead of "perfect.")

**THERE ARE MANY BLESSINGS**  
 for those who have this attitude!

>> FOR THOSE WILLING TO PURSUE GOD'S GLORY <<

**IF YOU WISH TO GLORIFY GOD  
IN ALL THINGS...**

Lord, we love to obey your laws;  
our heart's desire is to glorify your name.

Isaiah 26:8 (NLT)

**GOD WILL GRANT YOU  
THE THINGS YOU DESIRE!**

**GOD KNOWS WHAT YOUR DESIRES ARE.**

- Just as he knew David's desires:
 

You know all my **desires**, O Lord,  
and my groaning has not been hidden from you.

Psalm 38:9 (GW)
- Even when things are not going well for you:
 

You hear, O Lord, the **desire** of the afflicted;  
you encourage them, and you listen to their cry, ...

Psalm 10:17 (NIV)

**IF GOD'S GLORY IS YOUR #1 DESIRE:  
GOD WILL GRANT YOU WHAT YOU DESIRE.**

- Your desires will be granted:
 

What the wicked dreads will overtake him;  
what the righteous **desire** will be granted.

Proverbs 10:24 (NIV)
- Your desires will end in good:
 

The **desire** of righteous people ends only in good,  
but the hope of wicked people ends only in fury.

Proverbs 11:23 (GW)

**YOU WILL BE ABLE TO REJOICE IN THE FULFILLED DESIRES!**

- Like a tree of life!
 

... a fulfilled **longing** is a tree of life.

Proverbs 13:12b (GW)
- Sweet to the soul!
 

A fulfilled **desire** is sweet to the soul, ...

Proverbs 13:19a (GW)

**NOW AND FOREVERMORE!**

**THIS WEEK:**

*Focus on forming habits that enable  
NEUTRAL desires to be GOOD ones!*

**Do all for the glory of God!  
Do it "in Jesus' name"!**

And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the  
name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him  
to God the Father.

Col. 3:17 (NASB)

**Credits**

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